“I Don’t Live to Drain, I Drain to Live”

Data Librarian… or Energy Vampire?
Data Librarians

Jo Klein  
they/he  
GIS and Data Visualization Librarian  
UNC Greensboro

- Forages for mushrooms, walnuts, and mulberries
- Often goes to bed as the sun comes up (nightwalker)
- Commutes via walking

Lindsay Gypin  
she/her/hers  
Data Services Librarian  
UNC Greensboro

- Always packs a lunch for work, usually including homemade kombucha and plenty of vegetables
- In bed by 9pm most nights (daywalker)
- Commutes via Vespa
Energy Vampires

**Colin Robinson** he/him/his
Energy Vampire, Office “Worker”
Staten Island

- Always uses full name
- Excels in a cubicle-style work setting
- Absorbs life energy from nearby victims by being boring, annoying, or banal
  - Victims feel weak, sleepy, and bored
  - Victims can include other vampires
- Commutes via bus (can’t turn into a bat or fly)
- Daywalker

From *What We Do in the Shadows*, created by Jemaine Clement, FX, 2019-present.
Survey of Data Librarianship

- Surveyed data librarians (and “information professionals who do data things”)
- Google Form with 15 questions and a variety of question types
- 51 responses
- Vampire-related response options peppered in (for fun):

  - Denizens of the Night
  - Certificate of Approval from your Regional Vampiric Council
  - Vampirism, including but not limited to extracting the life-force of others especially through sustained and intentional emotional or visceral anguish and repeated annoyance, irritation, and/or psychological exsanguination
“At which type of institution do you work?”

- Private Company / Corporate Library (8%)
- Government Library (4%)
- Academic Data Archive (2%)
- Academic Technology (IT) (2%)
- Government Non-Library (2%)
- Hospital / Medical Research Facility (2%)
- Independent Consultant (2%)
- Laboratory (2%)
- Nonprofit Research Organization (2%)

“What time do you usually start/end your work day?”

100% work between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM
86% have an MLIS/MLS or equivalent

"Do you have a degree or certificate related to your position?"

- MLIS/MLS or equivalent: 44
- BS/BA or equivalent: 10
- PhD: 7
- MA: 7
- Certificate of Approval from your Regional Vampiric Council: 5
- MSIS or equivalent: 4
- MS: 3
- Graduate certificate: 1
61% serve other librarians and colleagues

"Which populations of patrons do you serve?"

- Researchers: 47
- Graduate Students: 40
- Librarians/Colleagues: 31
- Undergraduate Students: 31
- Other Adults: 12
- Denizens of the Night: 11
88% provide data management services

“Which aspects of data librarianship does your job encompass?”

Data Management Services (45)
Data Instruction, Presentations, & Workshops (43)
Data Reference & Consultations (38)
Outreach, Events, & Other Programming (37)
Data Collections & Acquisitions (24)
Data Visualization Services (21)
Discipline Liaison Librarian (19)
Data Analysis Assistance (18)

Vampirism, including but not limited to extracting the life-force of others especially through sustained and intentional emotional or visceral anguish and repeated annoyance, irritation, and/or psychological exsanguination (11)

GIS Services (6)
94% consider themselves to be proficient using and teaching spreadsheet tools

“Which data related tools do you consider yourself proficient using and teaching?”

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<th>Tool</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spreadsheets</td>
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<td>Open Refine</td>
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- Census Data Portal
- Data Lifecycle
- Data Retrieval Tools
- Elasticsearch
- IPUMS
- Oracle Database
- PolicyMap
- Power BI
- Research Data Practices
- Social Explorer
Data Instruction: Unexciting and Soul-Crushing?

● Includes various formats:
  - “Developing a series of R workshop and companion material in bookdown”
  - “…special projects such as creating instructional materials…”
  - “…developing guides or workshop material to help patrons find and use data.”

● Is popular, practical, and…fun?:
  - “Starting a popular series of summer data workshops for summer research assistants”
  - “…getting to incorporate…assignments that are practical and hopefully fun!”
Data Instruction: Unexciting and Soul-Crushing?

- Has impact on others:

  “Also helping a student who attributed the knowledge I gave her regarding GIS and data for getting her a job.”

  “...when a grad students says "I wish I'd learned this three years ago"...aka the moments when I can see the impact my work has on others.”

  “I enjoyed training a student on a research project who then went on to create training videos for her colleagues.”
Incorporating data literacy into instruction

- Use or adapt existing lessons
- Integrate it into existing instruction (data literacy as extension of information literacy):

  “Data is not "extra" to what we normally do in libraries, it is an integral part of the work we do.”

  “Don't be afraid of data, but realize it is a tool, which can be wielded in many ways - and by many people.”
Incorporating data literacy into instruction

- Take advantage of databases like SimplyAnalytics (previously offered by NC LIVE) and the State Data Center

- Collaborate:
  
  “This is an area where collaboration is vital.”

  “Data Librarian networks are great resources to ask questions, especially if you're a solo data librarian at your org.”

  “If you ever need help, would like examples, or just have a question you should ask [the data librarian community]... Slack, private mailing lists, Twitter and independent organizations (shout out to RDAP)”
Are data librarians energy vampires?

“I HOPE I don't suck energy as a data librarian! I try not to, I promise!”